

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated March 9, 2004 (Paper No. 3). Upon entry of this Amendment, new claims 27-34 will be pending in this application. The new claims are fully supported by the specification and original claims as explained below. No new matter is incorporated by this Amendment.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 13-18 and 26 contained allowable subject matter. With respect to claim 13-18, the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 112, second paragraph, rejection and to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant by this Amendment, presents new claim 27 which generally corresponds to previous claim 13 rewritten in independent form including limitations of previous base claim 1 and intervening claims 2 and 12 with alternate mandrel and tool type language removed. Moreover, new claim 27 has been drafted such that it fully complies with 35 U.S.C. 112 (see below). Hence, claim 27 and claims 28-32, which depend from claim 27, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 26, the Examiner indicated that claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 112, second paragraph. In response, Applicant presents new claim 33, which corresponds to previous claim 26 but drafted so that it fully complies with 35 U.S.C. 112 (see below). Hence, claim 33 is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

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The drawings are objected to because Figs. 1-6 should be designated by a Prior Art legend. The Office Action requires correction of the drawings.

In response, Applicant submits herewith a Formal Drawing Transmittal Letter and three sheets of the correct formal drawings showing each of Figs. 1-6 having the legend

-- Prior Art --. Clearer copies of original Figures 8-10 are also submitted. Entry of the formal drawings is respectfully requested.

In addition, the drawings are objected to for not showing the claimed "storage space with divisions" feature. In response, the formal drawings include Figure 7A showing the separations discussed in the specification. As can be seen, no new matter has been introduced in the modification to Figure 7 made to provide Figure 7A.

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Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as purportedly being indefinite. Applicants point out that the original claims have been cancelled. However, insofar as this rejection may be deemed applicable to the newly added claims, Applicants respectfully traverse.

In preparing this Amendment, Applicants have carefully reviewed the claims, taking into consideration the various issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action. In general, the newly added claims have been prepared in a manner to address the Examiner's concerns regarding clarity as set forth in the Office Action. Hence, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

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Claims 1, 2, 12, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Luikart et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,499,521).

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious based on Painter et al.

Claims 4-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious based on Painter et al.

Claims 1 and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious based on Rettie et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,009,138) in view of Molleker et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,044,245).

The previous claims have all been canceled by this Amendment thereby rendering each of the above rejections moot.

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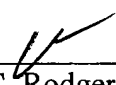
Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding objections and rejections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033975.002.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033975.002.

Respectfully submitted,
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